

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A printer system including a host computer and a printer for receiving print data from the host computer, the printer system comprising:
 - print data generating means, contained in the host computer, for generating print data;
 - reply information issuance means for generating print job data, wherein the print job data comprises the print data and reply information, and wherein the reply information issuance means generates the print job data by locating the reply information at a predetermined position with respect to the print data, and wherein the print job data is transmitted to the printer;
 - print job data processing means, contained in the printer, for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a part of the print job data, which indicates a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer,
 - wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information;
 - print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print job data processing means; and
 - job processing state monitor means for monitoring a processing state of the print data based on the reply information returned from said print job data processing means.

2. (original) The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after completion of processing of the print data.

3. (original) The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein if the reply information is related to print data concerning a print operation, said print job data processing means checks execution of the print data concerning the print operation before returning the reply information to the predetermined destination.

4. (original) The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein
said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination at the return timing specified in the timing specification information.

5. (original) The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein

upon reception of the timing specification information, said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after completion of processing the print data related to the reply information.

6. (original) The print system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein

upon reception of the timing specification information, said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after checking processing of the print data concerning a print operation related to the reply information.

7. (original) The print system as claimed in any of claims 4 to 6 wherein said reply information issuance means issues the reply information and the timing specification information so that the print data is placed between the reply information and the timing specification information.

8. (original) The print system as claimed in claim 7 wherein said reply information issuance means issues the timing specification information and the reply information so that the timing specification information, the print data and the reply information are processed by said print job data processing means in this order.

9. (original) The print system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the print data concerning print operation is at least any one of a paper feed instruction, a paper eject instruction, a page feed instruction, a line feed instruction, and a carriage return instruction.

10. (previously presented) The print system as claimed in any of claims 6 or 8-9 further including reply information detection means for detecting the reply information returned from said print data processing means and sending the detected reply information to said job processing state monitor means.

11. (previously presented) A printer for printing based on input data comprising:
reception means for receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;
print job data processing means for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a part of the print job data, which indicates a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer;

wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information; and

print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print job data processing means.

12. (original) The Printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after said printer control means completes processing of the print data.

13. (original) The printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein if the reply information is related to print data concerning a print operation, said print job data processing means checks that the print data concerning the print operation is executed by said print control means before returning the reply information to the predetermined destination.

14. (original) The printer as claimed in claim 13 wherein the print data concerning the print operation is related to at least any one of a paper feed instruction, a paper eject instruction, a page feed instruction, a line feed instruction, and a carriage return instruction.

15. (original) The printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein the print job data further contains timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information, and wherein

said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination at the return timing specified in the timing specification information.

16. (original) The printer as claimed in claim 11 wherein the print job data further contains timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information, and wherein

upon reception of the timing specification information, said print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after said print control means completes processing of the print data related to the reply information.

17. (original) The printer as claimed in claim 15 or 16 wherein the print job data is formatted so that the print data is placed between the reply information and the timing specification information.

18. (original) The printer as claimed in claim 17 wherein the print job data is formatted so that the timing specification information, the print data, and the reply information are processed by said print job data processing means in this order.

19. (previously amended) The printer as claimed in any of claims 11-16 or 18 wherein said reception means, said print job data processing means, and said print control means can operate in parallel.

20. (currently amended) A recording medium recording a program for generating print data to be transmitted to a printer, said recording medium recording:

a print data generation function of generating print data based on an input document;
a reply information issuance function of issuing reply information at a predetermined position of print job data containing the print data; and
a job processing state monitor function of monitoring a process state of the print job data based on ~~the reply information~~ a part of the print data returned in a format that can be read and understood by a computer from the printer in accordance with the reply information,
wherein the reply information includes intrinsically a predetermined destination and a reply instruction for replying said process state to said predetermined ~~position~~ destination.

21. (original) The recording medium as claimed in claim 20 wherein said reply information issuance function issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information.

22. (original) The recording medium as claimed in claim 20 or 21 further including a reply information detection function of detecting the reply information returned from the printer and sending the detected reply information to said job processing state monitor function.

23. (previously presented) A printer system including a host computer and a printer comprising:

a first controller contained in the host computer, wherein the first controller generates print job data comprising print data and reply information located in the print job data at a

predetermined position with respect to the print data, and transmits the print job data to the printer;

a second controller contained in the printer, wherein the second controller receives the print job data from the host computer, detects the reply information from the print job data, returns a part of the print data, which indicates a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination included in the intrinsic data of said reply information, and controls printing based on the print data contained in the print job data; and

a monitoring processor, which is external to the printer, receives the reply information returned from the printer, and monitors a processing state of the print data based on the reply information returned from the printer.

24. (previously presented) A recording medium containing a program to instruct a processor within a printer to perform a routine, comprising:

receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;

interpreting the print data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a part of the print job data, which indicates a process state of the print data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination external to the printer, wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information, and printing based on interpretation of said print data.

25. (previously presented) The printer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the print data processing means automatically returns the reply information to the predetermined destination and wherein said return of the reply information is not in response to any external command.

26. (previously presented) The printer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printer system is utilized in a network environment.

27. (previously presented) The printer system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the network environment includes a plurality of host computers that output information to the printer.

28. (previously presented) The printer as claimed in claim 11, wherein the printer is utilized in a network environment.

29. (previously presented) The printer as claimed in claim 28, wherein the network environment includes a plurality of host computers that output information to the printer.

30. (previously presented) The print system as claimed in of claim 7, further including reply information detection means for detecting the reply information returned from said print

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data processing means and sending the detected reply information to said job processing state monitor means.

31.(previously presented) The printer as claimed in claim 17, wherein said reception means, said print job data processing means and said print control means can operate in parallel.